

W5YI

America's Oldest Ham Radio Newsletter REPORT

Up to the minute news from the world of amateur radio, personal computing and emerging electronics. While no guarantee is made, information is from sources we believe to be reliable.

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Vol. 25, Issue #13

\$1.50

PUBLISHED TWICE A MONTH

July 1, 2003

U.S. Delegation Leaves for 2003 World Radio Conference

The Department of State has the authority and the ultimate responsibility for establishing foreign telecommunications policy. It is supported by other Executive Branch agencies through the Department of Commerce's NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) and the FCC. But in the end, it is the U.S. State Department that develops positions and proposals to the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC). The ITU is a agency of the United Nations.

A great deal of work has been done to prepare for WRC-03 which began June 9th in Geneva, Switzerland and lasts until July 4. Preparation for WRC-03 has been in progress for nearly three years ...beginning the week after WRC-2000 ended. The Dept of State participated in the inter-agency preparatory process. Here, preliminary views followed by draft proposals were generated.

A Head of Delegation was named by the White House on February 5, 2003. For WRC-2003, the former FCC staffer and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information (NTIA), Janice Obuchowski, will hold the rank of Ambassa-

dor and becomes a Department of State employee until the WRC ends.

She is currently the founder and President of Freedom Technologies, Inc., a Washington, DC communications and consulting firm. Ms. Obuchowski is a graduate of Wellesley College and went on to earn her law degree from Georgetown University.

Both the NTIA and FCC generated preliminary WRC-2003 draft proposals. Once approved, the draft proposals were sent to the other agency for review.

The State Dept. places maximum emphasis on spectrum issues that impact military readiness, national de-

fense and homeland security.

Once spectrum needs are identified, the State Dept. engaged in an aggressive outreach effort to garner support for these important proposals from other countries before WRC-03 began.

U.S. recommendations

The United States will recommend at WRC-2003 that more of the world's airwaves -- or spectrum -- be allocated for advanced wireless technologies such as wireless local area data networks

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(WLANS), said Ambassador Janice Obuchowski who outlined U.S. objectives in an interview ahead of the four-week ITU Conference.

That agenda item proposes a global allocation for wireless local area networks at 5 GHz. A U.S. position on that issue emerged after industry and key government agencies agreed on ways to protect military radar at 5250-5725 MHz. The U.S. wants to expand spectrum that can be used without a license, treating it as a common resource ... a new regulatory approach.

"Without international agreement ... the world's airwaves could quickly become a chaotic jumble of competing and interfering signals," says a U.S. delegation background document. "At stake [at the conference] are wireless frequencies (airwaves) that will be crucial to the U.S. high-technology sector, which is a vital, high-growth area of the U.S. economy."

Obuchowski said the United States will also promote a new technology developed by Boeing Corporation that involves delivering wireless communication services from the air. Such a technology would allow access to the Internet from anywhere, including from in-flight aircraft, she said.

Pre-WRC regional meetings have already accomplished much to prepare the conference agenda items. The United States met with other Western Hemisphere countries under the auspices of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) of the Organization of American States.

"We have a very strong set of hemispheric proposals," Obuchowski said. "The Western Hemisphere was the first region to complete its proposals and make them available for other regions to review."

In addition to commercial services, wireless frequencies are used in many government systems, such as the Global Positioning System (GPS) used to guide air traffic, which is an essential component of national security worldwide, Obuchowski said. Spectrum also is used to forecast weather, to communicate with space missions, to conduct intelligence and to guide missiles.

European "Galileo" positioning system

The United States wants to upgrade its GPS, which will share the same range of spectrum as Europe's soon-to-be-launched rival positioning system, Galileo, the ambassador said.

The European Galileo satellite-based navigation system is proposed to transmit its signals at the same 1164-to-1559 MHz frequency band now used by GPS. WRC-2003 will be considering the frequencies for the European positioning system and power levels for the next generation of GPS satellites will be determined.

The European Space Agency (ESA) said the Galileo system will cost \$3.7 billion. The agency expects to launch the first of 30 satellites (27 active and three spares) in 2006, with the final system completed and operational in 2008.

GPS consultants expect the Galileo system will lead to development of receivers that can pick up signals from both the U.S. and European systems, providing better availability and potentially improved accuracy.

The deployment of Galileo will mean that users eventually get a receiver capable of accessing both systems, obtaining a location signal from a mix of as many as five Galileo and five GPS satellites instead of just five GPS satellites today.

Before the ESA can proceed, it must first obtain the rights to the frequencies (1164-1214 MHz, 1260-1300 MHz and 1560-1595 MHz) it needs – and expects to get – at WRC-2003.

The world's only other launched positioning system is the former Soviet system, now managed by Russia, called GLONASS.

In Iraq, spectrum allowed the U.S. military's remote-controlled aerial vehicles, or drones, to communicate intelligence to troops' positioning systems on the ground, making fast progress in meeting objectives possible, Obuchowski said.

Wireless technology also supports a growing number of hand-held telephones, which are "vastly overtaking" standard phones in the developing world.

During the conference, the U.S. delegation will also work to accommodate global demands for spectrum while protecting U.S. government systems, including military radars, from harmful interference.

She said the United States has received "a great deal of support" for the telecommunications policy positions it will bring to the conference, particularly from developing countries. She said she expected the negotiations to be fruitful.

Amateur radio issues

Amateur radio will be represented in Geneva at WRC-2003 by the American Radio Relay League, and for the first time, a representative (Carl Stevenson, WK3C) of No-Code International. NCI, one of the private sector delegates, is an international organization that opposes continuation of Morse testing as a prerequisite to HF Amateur Radio operation.

The two most significant agenda items concern new rules applying to the amateur services and the sharing 40 meter spectrum with HF broadcasting.

Agenda Item 1.7

The U.S. State Dept. is supporting the following new six paragraph wording of Article 25, the international regulations applying to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services: (Note that there is no provision for mandatory Morse code proficiency.)

ARTICLE 25

Amateur services

Section I – Amateur service

S25.1 §1 Administrations shall verify the technical and

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operational qualifications of any person wishing to operate an amateur station.

S25.2 §2 (1) Transmissions between amateur stations of different countries shall be limited to communications incidental to the purposes of the amateur service or of a personal character.

(2) Except with the authority of the relevant administration granted to meet a particular operational need, transmissions between amateur stations shall not be encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning.

S25.3 §3 Administrations are urged to take the steps necessary to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs in the event of a natural disaster.

S25.4 §4 An administration may, without issuing a license, permit a person who has been granted a license to operate an amateur station by another administration, to operate an amateur station while that person is temporarily in its territory, subject to such conditions or restrictions it may impose.

Section II – Amateur-satellite service

S25.5 §5 The provisions of Section I of this Article shall apply equally, as appropriate, to the amateur-satellite service.

S25.6 §6 Administrations authorizing space stations shall ensure that sufficient earth command stations are established before launch to ensure that any harmful interference caused by emissions from a station in the amateur-satellite service can be immediately eliminated.

It is also supporting allowing the Amateur Service to have station call signs that vary from previous international guidelines. Some countries feel that the rules should be relaxed to allow the use of different combinations of numbers and letters, as for example, four letter suffixes, which are currently not permitted.

Agenda Item 1.23

...realignment of the allocations to the amateur, amateur-satellite and broadcasting services around 7 MHz on a worldwide basis.

Since most of the world outside the Americas has only a 100 kHz allocation at 40 meters, this would mean a major relocation for the shortwave broadcasters in Europe and Asia, and a loss of spectrum in those regions which would probably have to be shared between the broadcast and fixed services.

The IARU objective is a realignment of the bands around 7 MHz to eliminate the Regional differences between the allocations to the broadcasting service and the amateur services. The U.S. State Dept. initially supported the IARU goal, an allocation of a contiguous 300 kHz of spectrum around 7 MHz on a worldwide primary basis to the amateur services.

The CPM (Conference Preparatory Meeting) held in Geneva, however, came up with six different Amateur/HF Broadcasting sharing arrangements for satisfying Agenda Item No. 123. The six options on the table are as follows:

Method A, proposed by the UK (BBC) would shift Region 1 & 3 broadcasters up by 200 kHz to 7300-7550 kHz in two stages and would provide the same band for broadcasting in Region 2.

Method B, supported by almost all European countries is similar but would have amateurs in Regions 1 & 3 sharing the up-

per 100 kHz of their newly expanded band with fixed and mobile.

Method C, proposed by France, is less desirable as it would only provide 200 kHz for amateurs in Regions 1 & 3 and would perpetuate the undesirable situation at 7200-7300 kHz, where amateurs in Region 2 must contend with broadcasting interference from Regions 1 & 3.

Method D, proposed by Canada, would provide 300 kHz worldwide for amateurs by shifting broadcasters in Regions 1 & 3 up by 200 kHz but would not expand the Region 2 broadcasting allocation. This is an effort to minimize the impact of the realignment on fixed and mobile services in Region 2.

Method E, proposed by the Republic of Korea, would provide amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 with an additional 100 kHz shared with fixed and mobile (7100-7200 kHz). Like Method C, the existing unsatisfactory arrangement at 7200-7300 kHz would continue.

Method F, proposed by Australia, would simply maintain the status quo (i.e. Region 1 & 3, 100 kHz Amateur worldwide at 7000-7100 kHz.; Region 2, 7100-7300 Amateur shared with shortwave broadcasting.) Proponents of Method F are concerned about the impact of any realignment on military and other national security communications capabilities.

This agenda item remains disputed and controversial.

A full plate of agenda items...

WRC 2003 will consider 44 agenda items for setting international rules for spectrum use, the most ever. The United States will be represented by more than 160 delegates -- including 90 from private industry -- and 30 advisers. In all, approximately 2,000 delegates representing 180 countries will be attending.

The Amateur Radio issues apparently are not considered that important. At least, nothing has been said about them in the pre-conference media publicity.

Among U.S. government agencies represented at the conference will be the departments of State, Commerce, Defense and Homeland Security and independent agencies including the Federal Communications Commission, the National Aeronautic and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation.

Companies represented in the U.S. delegation include Lockheed Martin, Motorola, Cisco Systems, Intel, AT&T Wireless and Boeing.

Emerging regional voting blocs will have an impact on the outcome of WRC-2003. These include the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) of the Organization of American States, the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT), the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and an association of Arab countries.

"WRC 2003 will be more global than past conferences," the background document said. "This will undoubtedly create a new dynamic at WRC 2003."

Cutbacks at the ITU have led to a move to hold WRCs every 4 years, instead of every 3 years, meaning the next one is set for 2007.

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CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY

American Idol TV show promotes "texting" over cellphones ...with millions of people spending an average of ten cents per message.

In Japan, over 90% of teens and college students use wireless SMS (short message service) texting. Not so in America. But AT&T is in the process of changing all that.

To make up for lost time AT&T in partnership with Fox TV began in the summer of 2002 to experiment with ways of bring SMS texting, TV and American youth culture together. Their vehicle was sponsorship of a then fledgling new "reality series" American Idol, in which aspiring entertainers competed live each week to become America's most popular amateur entertainer.

American Idol aired on Tuesday and Wednesday each week from Jan. 28-May 21. At the end of each one-hour episode on Tuesday viewers were asked by host Ryan Seacrest to vote for their favorite contestants using the text feature on their AT&T cell phones.

Over one million AT&T Wireless subscribers who have SMS-enabled phones voted for contestants in the first eight episodes of season two.

And in just one evening (the show of April 8) American Idol viewers sent over 2.5 million SMS messages. Peak traffic immediately following the show exceeded one thousand messages per second.

What was perhaps most amazing of all, is that nearly one-third of the people sending messages for American Idol had never used SMS text-messaging before.

EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS

According to a survey of adults in the U.S. who do not own a mobile phone, conducted by Harris Interactive for AT&T Wireless, 20% of the respondents say they plan to buy one in the coming year. Still, 49% say they do not need a mobile phone...

When asked to give the reasons why they do not have a mobile phone, 22% of respondents say they are too expensive, while 12% say they do not like mobile phones.

Reasons Why Consumers Do Not Have Mobile Phones

- Too expensive 22%
- Don't like them 12%
- Don't want a long-term contract 6%
- Plans too confusing 4%
- Didn't qualify for desired plan 3%
- Poor reception or coverage 1%

Source: Harris Interactive Poll

Renting wireless spectrum. Consumers soon may see improvement in the quality of their wireless cellphone service. The FCC has voted to make it possible for wireless operators to lease their valuable spectrum to other telephone carriers in a move to encourage greater use of wireless capacity.

That decision gives companies a potentially faster and cheaper option, compared with large-scale acquisitions, to temporarily fill holes in their coverage areas.

COMPUTERS & SOFTWARE

Eliminating spam before it reaches your email inbox. On June 1st, Atlanta-based Earthlink, the nation's third-largest paid-for e-mail provider began implementing its free spamBlocker "challenge-response system" to its subscribers. Other ISPs may follow suit -- a scenario that has veteran list operators concerned. Earthlink has 4 million subscribers, with 82% of them still using dial-up.

The spamBlocker system is "permission-based." All incoming unrecognized email addresses ask the sender to fill out a short, easy-to-complete form to gain access to the EarthLink subscriber's inbox. The subscriber can choose to accept or reject the sender's request, and if admitted, add the sender's address to his or her address book.

E-mail from known senders goes straight to the inbox. But e-mail from unknown addresses would bounce back to senders with a note and set of instructions -- something like, "If you really want to send this e-mail, forward it again with a specific word in the subject line." The word appears as a fuzzy image in the instructions; one that is impossible for a computer program to read and copy automatically.

The filter would be programmed to accept only messages complying with the rule. A spammer who sends out millions of messages a day could never keep up,

and his messages would disappear into the ether.

Earthlink claims spamBlocker to be 100% effective in getting rid of all junk e-mail. SpamBlocker will be marketed with a new television campaign launching in July. More info at the <www.earthlink.net/spamblocker> web site.

A widely used system for getting no spam in your personal e-mail account is to use a web-based e-mail account (such as offered by most major portals ...such as Yahoo) for forum posting, mailing lists, shopping, and others where you must give out your e-mail account to someone you do not know. This way your personal account -- which only your friends and family have -- stays clean.

GADGETS & GIZMOS

Asouped up PS-2 is on the way. Sony has a new PlayStation 2 "PSX" video game console that has a DVD and TV recorder, a TV tuner and broadband Internet connection that allows it to download movies and music.

Sony's new PSX will bring the PlayStation out of the bedroom or the den, and into the living room - right where Sony wants it. The PSX contains components that make it much more than a gaming system ...namely, a TV and broadcast satellite tuner, and a DVD recorder that allows users to record their favorite television shows and burn them onto DVDs.

The Japanese electronics company said the new PSX has a hard drive that stores 120 gigabytes of data. It goes on sale in Japan this year and is planned for Europe and North America early next year. Price has not yet been determined.

The PlayStation 2 is the No 1 video game console, with 52.5 million sold worldwide. The PSX is an interim machine until the PlayStation 3 console is released sometime in 2005.

The video game industry is big business and racks up more sales dollars than Hollywood movies. Worldwide, sales reached a record \$16 billion in 2002 and analysts expect that figure will grow to \$18.5 billion in 2003.

According to Leichtman Research Group, Inc., consumers in the United States have yet to embrace digital video recorders (DVRs). One percent of cable and DBS subscribers

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report having a DVR, and an additional 5% report that they are very familiar with the product. Only 17% of cable and DBS subscribers expressed strong interest in having a DVR, a total that is unchanged from last year's survey.

Other study findings include:

- Four times as many people have used video on demand from their cable company as own a DVR
- 52% of cable and DBS subscribers have heard of digital video recorders, but just 9% of this group say that they are very familiar with the product, with an additional 28% saying that they are somewhat familiar
- While just over one-third of those most interested in DVRs express a strong likelihood to get it if it cost \$249 for the product along with a \$12.95 monthly fee, 55% of those most interested in DVRs would be likely to get it if the cost was \$9.95 per month along with a cable subscription

INTERNET & WORLD WIDE WEB

The future for America OnLine looks bleak. There is talk about spinning off AOL from the Time Warner protective umbrella that has been keeping it afloat. The blockbuster merger has not been going well and the AOL division expects to decline 35% to 45% from \$1.3 billion this year.

AOL's broadband business is not going well. It is basically a dial-up service company and their customers are jumping ship to cable modems and other DSL providers. A turnaround does not seem to be in the cards.

So what happens is AOL is cut loose from Time Warner. The spinoff becomes a death sentence.

Seattle-based RealNetworks, Inc., has launched "RealOne Rhapsody" where subscribers can burn music to a CD for 79 cents a song. Consumers can sign up for Rhapsody at \$9.95 a month. The first two months are free.

Downloaded tracks can be stored on the subscriber's hard drive and replayed. But each track that's burned to a CD will cost another 79 cents.

The Gartner Group expects 5.8 million people, paying \$661 million, to subscribe by 2006. 330,000 tracks are

available for on-demand listening and more than 200,000 songs are available for burning to CD.

RealOne Rhapsody is the creation of Listen.com, the San Francisco company that RealNetworks agreed April 21 to buy for \$36 million in cash and stock. More at: <www.real.com>.

WASHINGTON WHISPERS

According to a June 2nd Federal Trade Commission press release, consumers will be able to add their name to the Federal Do-Not-Call List beginning July 1st. Your telephone number will stay on the registry for five years.

A Web address for the FTC site will be announced at that time. The objective of the free FTC-run service is to prohibit telemarketers from calling those on the list.

Beginning in September, telemarketers will be required to check the registry every three months to see which phone numbers can no longer be called. The FTC says consumers placing their phone numbers on the registry should see a decrease in calls after Oct. 1.

The FTC plans to allow consumers to file complaints via phone or the Internet through an automated system. Companies found to have made calls improperly will face fines of a maximum \$11,000 a violation. More: <www.ftc.gov/donotcall>.

The Direct Marketing Association, an industry trade group, opposes the FTC service and has filed a federal lawsuit in Oklahoma accusing the FTC of infringing on its free-speech rights. The DMA seeks an injunction allowing telemarketers to continue making unsolicited calls while the lawsuit proceeds through the court.

AMATEUR RADIO

The world's largest Amateur Radio gathering and trade show continues to slim down. The Dayton Hamvention reported June 4 that attendance for this year's 52nd show was 22,168, down more than 10 percent from last year's crowd. "This is based on the number of admission tickets issued and exhibitor and staff badges issued," said a statement from the office of HamVen-

tion Production Manager Garry Matthews, KB8GOL.

The 2003 number marks the third year in a row that Hamvention's attendance had dipped. Attendance at last year's 50th Anniversary event was 24,832, down about 5 percent from 2001's crowd of 26,151.

The crowd size climbed to 28,804 in 2000, the year of the ARRL National Convention at Hamvention.

Mr. Hamvention, Frank Schwab, dead at 77 after a lengthy illness. Funeral services were held June 1 for Francis J. "Frank" Schwab, W8OK. He died of cancer at the Dayton VA Hospital on May 30. Schwab is one of the founders of the annual Hamvention. He was first licensed in 1946 as W8YCP. Survivors include his wife, Carolyn, 12 children, 30 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

The Jackson (Mississippi) Clarion-Ledger carried a feature story about William P. Gearhiser, W5EPW who, at the age of 92, is believed to be Mississippi's oldest active ham radio operator.

Gearhiser, who earned bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering from Mississippi State University in 1931 and 1932 respectively, received his ham license in 1928 as a teenager 75 years ago, his freshman year.

He was the trustee of the university's WSYD Radio Club for more than 35 years. Still active in the Starkville and campus radio clubs, Gearhiser said he still checks the radio waves twice a day.

Current members of the MSU amateur radio club recently designated their Simrall Hall meeting room as the W.P. Gearhiser Ham Radio Club Room.

Channelization comes to ham radio. The new five-channel 60-meter amateur allocation (5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz) becomes available to U.S. radioamateurs at midnight (12:00 AM) local time on July 3. The FCC Report and Order (R&O) granting the allocation was published in the Federal Register on June 3rd.

It represents the very first time ever in the history of Ham Radio that Amateurs have been restricted to operating on "channels" on any ham band allocation.

National Hurricane Center's Amateur Radio station, WX4NHC held an on-the-air test of its

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equipment on June 1. Formerly W4EHW, the event marked the first time the NHC used its new WX4NHC call sign. June 1st is historically the first day of the hurricane season which runs through November 30.

The purpose of the annual station test is to check out all of the WX4NHC radio, computer and antenna equipment using as many modes and frequencies as possible. Stations that worked WX4NHC are eligible for a special QSL card via W4VBQ. Include an SASE.

Recognizing the damaging and potentially deadly effects of the tropical storms and hurricanes that form in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico each year, President George W. Bush signed a proclamation announcing May 18-24 as National Hurricane Awareness Week.

The National Hurricane Center (Miami, Florida) predicts that 2003 will be an "above-average" season, with 11 to 15 named tropical storms, six to nine becoming hurricanes and two to four becoming intense (category 3 or higher) hurricanes.

Hurricanes are ranked 1 to 5 according to what is known as the Saffir-Simpson scale of strength:

Category 1 -- Hurricane has central barometric pressure of 28.94 inches or more and winds of 74 mph to 95 mph, is accompanied by a 4-foot to 5-foot storm surge and causes minimal damage.

Category 2 -- Pressure 28.50 inches to 28.93 inches, winds from 96 mph to 110 mph, storm surge 6 feet to 8 feet, damage moderate.

Category 3 -- Pressure 27.91 inches to 28.49 inches, winds from 111 mph to 130 mph, storm surge 9 feet to 12 feet, damage extensive.

Category 4 -- Pressure 27.17 inches to 27.90 inches, winds from 131 mph to 155 mph, storm surge 13 feet to 18 feet, damage extreme. Hurricane Georges, when it went through the Caribbean in late September 1998 and Hurricane Hugo were Category 4 storms.

Category 5 -- Pressure less than 27.17 inches, winds greater than 155 mph, storm surge higher than 18 feet, damage catastrophic. Experts say 1992's Hurricane Andrew was a Category 5 storm. Only two other Category 5 storms -- the 1935 hurricane in the Florida Keys and Camille in 1969 in Louisiana and Mississippi -- have hit the United States.

As is the custom, this year's storms follow the letters of the alphabet, alternat-

ing between male and female names. This year it starts with: Ana, Bill, Claudette, Danny, Erika, ...Fabian.

The National Hurricane Center's Web site is at: <www.nhc.noaa.gov>.

FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement

Stuart A. Sokolin, W6TA (Rolling Hills, CA) has had three club call signs canceled by the FCC. He had been asked on April 9th to justify six club call signs, three of which were granted on the same day. Sokolin failed to provide documentation for W6FAN (Air Moving Equipment Company), W6III (Buggy Whip DX Radio Association) and K9MAV (Mavrick Kennel Club).

Seven utility companies and one electric fence owner have been contacted by the FCC relative to causing harmful RF interference to Amateur Radio stations. They are:

- Otero County Electric Cooperative (Cloudcroft, NM) -- Interfering with Larry Strain, N7DF, La Luz, NM
- CMS Energy (Dearborn, MI) -- Interfering with Larry Riley, W8MIS, Fenton, MI
- Public Service Company of New Hampshire (Manchester, NH) -- Interfering with David C. Olean, K1WHS, Lebanon, ME
- Exelon Corporation (Chicago, IL) -- Interfering with John F. Meyer, K9QVB, Wilmette, IL
- AmerenUE (St. Louis, MO) -- Interfering with Larry Ford, NØRIC, Senath, MO 63876-8249
- American Electric Power Company (Columbus, OH) was initially advised six months ago of interference which has not been resolved -- This power company continues to interfere with Jerry W. Daugherty, W9FS, South Bend, IN; James M. Kiskis, W8PA, Gallipolis, OH and William H. Hannon, N8PW, Canton, OH. (This utility must respond to the FCC within 20 days.)
- Glenn & Cheryl Lynn Minardi (Odessa, FL) have an electric fence that is causing harmful interference to James Dolvin, K4OA, Odessa, FL.

These utility companies and individuals were advised that power-line equipment and electric fences are classified as "incidental radiators" and must not cause interference to authorized radio stations. Section 15.5 requires RF devices causing such interference to cease operations and not resume until the condition has been

corrected.

The complainants have attempted unsuccessfully to resolve the problems with the interference source. The FCC said it prefers that such problems be solved without FCC intervention, but will conduct its own investigation if necessary and impose "appropriate remedies" including "...a monetary forfeiture for each occurrence."

The power companies and electric fence owners were directed to advise the complainants of the steps being taken to correct the interference. The FCC is to be notified if the problem is not corrected within 60 days.

Tyler B. Stampfli, KAØKA (La Grange, NC) has been advised that the FCC has "...received numerous complaints regarding the operation of your station. The complaints allege that your station is transmitting an 'enhanced Single Sideband' emission with a bandwidth wider than necessary and contrary to good engineering practice."

"...it is important for you to understand that Section 97.307(a) of the Commission's Rules requires that 'no Amateur station transmission shall occupy more bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good Amateur practice.'"

"Wide band overly-processed audio, especially when coupled with the high intermodulation levels of certain amplifiers, results in the use of bandwidths extremely inconsiderate of other operators. Transmitting an emission that occupies more bandwidth than necessary is contrary to the Commission rules and to the expectation that the Amateur Service be largely self-regulated."

"...the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Service are not allocated for a 'broadcast quality' audio emission or sound. Section 97.101 sets out the general standards Amateur stations must follow:

- (a) In all respects not specifically covered by FCC Rules each Amateur station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good Amateur practice.
 - (b) Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the Amateur Service frequencies (emphasis added). No frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station."
- "Furthermore, Section 97.101(d)

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states that no Amateur operator shall willfully or maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any radio communication or signal."

"Section 97.101 applies to all Amateur stations at all times. When an Amateur station transmits a voice emission that occupies more bandwidth than necessary in order to achieve a 'great audio' sound, that emission occupies spectrum that could be utilized by several other Amateur stations."

"To occupy more bandwidth necessary in a heavily used Amateur band is not only extremely inconsiderate, but is contrary to requirement that Amateur operators cooperate in the utilization of frequencies allocated to them, and make the most effective use of them."

"Such shortsightedness on the part of control operators that causes a station to transmit an 'enhanced Single Sideband' emission inevitably leads to ill will between operators, and likely will result in petitions for rule making requesting that the Commission establish bandwidth limitations for Amateur station emissions." (See Page 10.)

"The many complaints that we are receiving regarding the operation of your station leads to the conclusion that your operation is having a negative impact on the Amateur Radio Service."

"In conclusion, no frequencies in the Amateur Service are designated as 'wide-band audio' frequencies, either by Commission rule or in any informal band plans. Accordingly, you are requested to fully review the rules referenced above, make certain that your station conforms to them and that you operate in the best interests of the Amateur Radio Service as a whole."

Richard Lalone II, (Calcium, NY) has been given a ticket by a New York State Trooper for having a "scanner" (Icom IC-2100, and IC-706) in his vehicle.

Although the radios can receive police frequencies, neither the Icom IC-2100 (a 2-meter mobile transceiver) nor the IC-706 (an HF/VHF/UHF mobile transceiver) are considered scanners.

New York does have a "scanner" law (New York Traffic Law 397) that exempts Amateur Radio operation on ham frequencies. Lalone is now subject to a potential fine of \$1000.00 or 6 months in jail, or both! He goes to court on June 9, 2003 in the Town Hall of Evans Mills, New York.

But at least one County Court judge agrees the licensed ham operators are ex-

empt. In the case of People v Beatson (1997) Suffolk County First District Docket #44993-97S, Judge Barbara Kahn ruled "As a holder of a valid amateur radio license, defendant is exempt from the provisions of section 397 of the vehicle and traffic law."

The law's purpose is to prevent criminals from monitoring the police from their getaway cars.

The following is the complete text of section 397 of the New York State vehicle and traffic law. This section governs the use of mobile scanners in motor vehicles.

Section 397. Equipping motor vehicles with radio receiving sets capable of receiving signals on frequencies allocated for Police use.

A person, not a police officer or peace officer, acting pursuant to his special duties, who equips a motor vehicle with a radio receiving set capable of receiving signals on frequencies allocated for police use or knowingly uses a motor vehicle so equipped or who in any way knowingly interferes with the transmission of radio messages by the police without having first secured a permit so to do from the person authorized to issue such a permit by the local governing body or board of the city, town or village in which such person resides, or where such person resides outside of a city or village in a county having a county police department by the board of supervisors of such county, is guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both.

Nothing in this section contained shall be construed to apply to any person who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license issued by the federal communications commission and who operates a duly licensed portable mobile transmitter and in connection therewith a receiver or receiving set on frequencies exclusively allocated by the federal communications commission to duly licensed radio amateurs.

The following press release was issued by Bill Desjardins, W1ZY, Producer, The Human Race

Hy-Gain/MFJ Join The Human Race

BOSTON, MA (June 7, 2003) The Human Race – the television documentary series about Amateur Radio – announces the addition of Hy-Gain/MFJ Enterprises amongst its corporate underwriters.

In an agreement reached last month, between THR producer Bill Desjardins,

W1ZY, and Martin F. Jue, K5FLU, President and Owner of MFJ Enterprises/Hy-Gain, a CD-45II rotor, control box and lower mast support are being shipped to the project in Boston.

"We're proud to help and be a part of The Human Race Project. It is a very interesting program that will benefit the amateur radio community," stated MFJ/Hy-Gain President Martin Jue, K5FLU.

THR Producer Bill Desjardins, W1ZY, added, 'Hy-Gain/MFJ makes the world's largest assortment of quality amateur products. We're delighted to have them on board as a sponsor.'

The provision of a CD-45II and assorted gear by Hy-Gain could not have come at a more opportune moment. After receipt of a T-6 from Tennadyne last Winter, the Boston filmmakers ran into a bit of trouble from Mother Nature.

"In the beginning, all we had was a TV rotor to turn the antenna," W1ZY explained. "At first it worked. It even survived the first Northeast. But the second one creamed it. Ever since we've been 'Armstronging' the T-6 on the roof with ropes."

"When they heard about what happened to us, Hy-Gain/MFJ responded immediately," Desjardins said. "We appreciate what they've done and look forward to turning the antenna from inside the shack. It's nice having a giant friend like Hy-Gain/MFJ."

For the past year, The Human Race has been engaged in extensive on-air HF operations – generating pile-ups and posting mp3's of stations worked. The project's website (www.humanrace.fr.st) is now being used to support grant applications the Project is submitting to private foundations.

"In-kind support from companies provides material assistance, but also bolsters the project's legitimacy in the eyes of potential corporate funders," said THR Producer Desjardins. "The equipment is important. But equally important is our ability to cite affiliation with large companies – like Hy-Gain/MFJ – within the grant applications we are submitting to private foundations."

The CD-45II and additional equipment provided by Hy-Gain/MFJ will arrive in Boston shortly. THR's producer says it ...will be immediately pressed into service."

The "Big Project" has new Coordinator

The American Radio Relay League

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announced on June 6th that Mark Spencer, WA8SME, is the new coordinator of the ARRL Amateur Radio Education and Technology program – also known as "The Big Project." He succeeds Jerry Hill, KH6HU, who has returned to Hawaii.

Spencer, whose first day on the job was June 5, said he's happy to have the chance to continue to work with both young people and Amateur Radio. "This office has the great opportunity to be a facilitator in integrating wireless technologies into the schools," he said. "Ham radio is a facet that can open doors in that area, and I think that ham radio can help make the curriculum relevant for kids."

A ham for 38 years, Spencer has taught math, science, computers and social science at the middle school, high school and community college levels in California and Nevada, often integrating Amateur Radio into his lessons. He holds a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in communications from the University of Northern Colorado, in addition to two teaching credentials.

ARRL Field and Education Services Manager Rosalie White, K1STO, said she's thrilled to have someone of Spencer's caliber to guide the Education and Technology Program. "I see him being able to take all the schools, corral them and network them into the Education and Technology program," she said, noting Spencer's extensive experience using Amateur Radio in the classroom. "The sky's the limit, dependent only on the program's funding by generous ARRL members and corporations."

Prior to starting his teaching career in 1993, Spencer served 21 years in the US Air Force, retiring with the rank of Lt Colonel after working in reconnaissance and intelligence, assisting with national military policy supporting the Joint Chiefs, and flying the T-38 supersonic trainer, B-52 nuclear bomber and U-2/TR-1 high-altitude reconnaissance aircraft.

The goal of the Education and Technology Program is to use Amateur Radio as a vehicle to improve the quality of education by providing a curriculum focused on wireless communications. The project emphasizes integration of technology, math, science, geography, language skills and social responsibility within a global society. It also provides a complete Amateur Radio station for schools accepted into the program.

2003 Inductees to CQ Hall of Fame

CQ Amateur Radio magazine announced its 2003 inductees into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame at the Dayton HamVention. Established in January 2001, the Amateur Radio Hall of Fame recognizes those individuals, whether radio amateurs or not, who significantly affected the course of Amateur Radio.

Fifteen amateurs are being honored this year. The 2003 CQ Hall of Fame inductees are:

- **Dick Baldwin, W1RU** – Responsible for much of the behind-the-scenes building of international support for new amateur bands at 10, 18 and 24 MHz at World Administrative Radio Conference 1979.
- **Forrest Bartlett, W6OWP** – Beginning in 1948 and continuing for more than 50 years volunteered to program and transmit the ARRL CW "West Coast Qualifying Run."
- **Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD** – Retired anchor and managing editor of CBS Evening News, a position in which he became known as "the most trusted man in America."
- **Bob Denniston, VP2VI/WØDX (SK)** – Leader of the first modern DXpedition ("Gon-Waki") in 1948; 160-meter DXing pioneer; past ARRL and IARU president.
- **Noel Eaton, VE3CJ (SK)** – As president of International Amateur Radio Union, led the IARU delegation to WARC-79, helped build international support for new ham bands at 10, 18 and 24 MHz.
- **Antonio Elias, KA1LLM** – Orbital Sciences Corp executive who led the technical team that designed and built the air-launched Pegasus booster as well as the X-34 hypersonic research vehicle.
- **Shozo Hara, JA1AN** – President of Japan Amateur Radio League (JARL) for more than 30 years; helped guide development of Amateur Radio in Japan, which has more licensed amateurs than any other country.
- **Sako Hasegawa, JA1MP (SK)** – Founded Yaesu Musen Co (now Vertex Standard); pioneered technology leading to the modern SSB transceiver; introduced first ac/dc HF SSB transceiver, FT-101; first 2-meter mobile rig with memory and first synthesized, scanning, 2-meter handheld.
- **J.P. "Pat" Hawker, G3VA** – Editor of "Technical Topics" column in Radio Society of Great Britain's journal RadCom

since 1958; prolific writer on radio and electronics for various magazines.

- **Glenn Johnson, WØGJ** – Orthopedic surgeon who volunteers to train physicians in medically underserved areas in orthopedic surgery techniques; very active DXer from various locations around the world.
- **Roy Neal, K6DUE** – Instrumental in persuading officials at NASA to allow Amateur Radio operation from space.
- **Bob Rouleau, VE2PY** – One of five hams who developed the Montreal Protocol in 1978, leading to the development of amateur packet radio. Also founder, president and CEO of Dataradio Inc, which provides mobile data systems to the public safety community and even has equipment on Mars.
- **Ethel Smith, K4LMB (SK)** – Co-founder and first president of the Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL).
- **Lou van de Nadort, PAØLOU** – Chairman of IARU Region 1 (Europe and Africa) from 1975 until 2002; oversaw regional initiative to expand Amateur Radio in Africa; guided region through tumultuous times in late 1980s/early 1990s.
- **Gordon West, WB6NOA** – Personally responsible for licensing thousands of new amateurs through his classes; inspired thousands more through his license manuals, club talks and articles for various amateur magazines.

Inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame were:

- **Ken Keeler, N6RO**, a founding member and multi-term officer of the Northern California Contest Club, always willing to share both his station and his contesting knowledge, with other hams.
- **Dan Street, K1TO**, one half of the three-time top-scoring Word Radiosport Team Championship duo, with Jeff Steinman, N5TJ. Street also holds many domestic and DX contest records. He serves as president of the Florida Contest Group, which has grown to more than 100 members under his leadership.

Inducted into the CQ DX Hall of Fame is:

- **James Brooks, 9V1YC**. Brooks has put Singapore into the logbooks of hams around the world and has been part of several major DXpeditions. He's best known, however, for producing professional-quality videos about those trips – including the VKOIR, ZL9CI, FO0AAA, A52A, and VP8THU/VP8GEO DXpeditions.

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ARRL and Dept of Homeland Security Sign Agreement

At press time, the American Radio Relay League and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) <www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/> are scheduled to sign a Statement of Affiliation (SoA) at the League's 2003 National Convention later this month in Texas. The convention was held June 20-22 at the Arlington Convention Center in conjunction with Ham-Com <<http://www.hamcom.org>>.

Since both ARRL and DHS view community disaster preparedness and response as top priorities, they will pledge mutual support for Citizen Corps – a community-based training and outreach initiative that brings together volunteers and first responders.

"This is all part of the bigger picture of getting emergency communications, aligned with what our government needs," said ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who will sign the SoA on the League's behalf. "Amateur Radio stands ready to serve the country as needed in times of emergency."

Chief Operating Officer of the Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate Ron Castleman is to represent the DHS at the signing and serve as the lead speaker during the ARRL Forum on Saturday, June 21, at 10 AM.

Programs under the Citizen Corps umbrella are aimed at helping communities prevent, prepare for and respond to terrorism, public health issues and disasters.

The Statement of Affiliation will call on ARRL and DHS to collaborate in several areas, including raising public awareness of Amateur Radio as a public safety resource and providing training and accreditation for Amateur Radio emergency communications.

The DHS and the League also will work together to promote formation and assist Citizen Corps councils in education, training and volunteer service opportunities that support first responders, disaster relief organizations and community safety efforts. [ARRL Bulletin]

40-M "Realignment" Tops WRC-2003 Ham Radio Issues

When delegates gathered June 9 in Geneva, Switzerland, for World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03), Amateur Radio enjoyed robust representation.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) is looking to WRC-03 to resolve the longstanding issue of a harmonized worldwide 40-meter amateur allocation. In addition, the IARU has taken positions on several other issues of importance to hams.

"Forty meters is the biggie," says ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who will attend the month-long international assembly in the role of administrative officer of the IARU observer delegation headed by President Larry Price, W4RA. "It's complicated, controversial and involves multiple radio services, and there's simply no way of predicting what the outcome will be."

Citing its desire to "meet the needs of communications for humanitarian assistance," the IARU has ex-

pressed strong support for a realignment of the band to make available to hams globally 300 kHz of spectrum in the vicinity of 7 MHz.

While Region 2 amateurs – including U.S. hams – now enjoy 7.000 to 7.300 MHz, hams in most of the rest of the world – Regions 1 and 3 – may use only 7.000 to 7.100 MHz. Methods to get the issue off the dime must address the incompatibility arising from how, where and on what timetable the broadcasters in Regions 1 and 3 should be shifted to higher frequencies while continuing to meet the needs of fixed and mobile services in the band.

Other Amateur Radio-related agenda items include proposed revisions to Article 25 of the Radio Regulations. Article 25 details the requirements for Amateur Radio and includes the obligation to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to operate below 30 MHz. Sumner said he expects the WRC-03 delegates to delete the international requirement, although administrations could continue to require Morse proficiency if they wished to do so.

The IARU favors a revision to Paragraph 25.6 to incorporate an ITU Recommendation (ITU-R M.1544) by reference to establish a minimum international standard for Amateur Radio licensing. [Editor's Note: *This is NOT supported by the U.S. State Department.*]

The IARU also supports adding new provisions urging administrations to take steps to allow amateur stations to prepare for and meet communication needs to support disaster relief and to permit individuals licensed in another country to operate temporarily while in their territory. The IARU also supports giving greater flexibility to administrations in the formation of Amateur Radio call signs.

Expressing concern over interference potential, the IARU opposes allocating any spectrum to the Earth Exploration Satellite Service (Active) to deploy spaceborne synthetic aperture radars (SARs) in the 430 to 440 MHz band. Amateur Radio is co-primary at 430 to 440 MHz in Region 1 and in several countries in Region 2.

As an observer at the conference, the IARU can only request that ITU member-states take its views into consideration when deciding on WRC-03 agenda items.

ARRL has launched a special WRC-03 campaign <<http://www.arrl.org/defense>> to help generate the funds needed to continue the defense of Amateur Radio spectrum. Sumner said "unquantifiable thousands of hours by volunteers and staff members" have gone into WRC-03 preparations.

ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, and ARRL Technical Relations Specialist Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, will serve on the U.S. delegation.

More than a dozen other Amateur Radio licensees are expected to be in Geneva to help represent Amateur Radio. WRC-03 concludes July 4. More information on WRC-03 is available on the ITU WRC-03 Web page at <www.itu.int/ITU-R/conferences/wrc/wrc-03/index.asp> and on the FCC Web site: <www.fcc.gov/ib/wrc-03/>.

[ARRL Bulletin]

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Petition to Limit SSB Bandwidth below 28.8 MHz

Michael D. Lonneke, W0YR (Round Hill, VA) and Melvin J. Ladisky, W6FDR (Camarillo, CA) have petitioned the FCC seeking to limit the bandwidth of SSB emissions transmitted on the HF Amateur bands.

They say "...the most popular [amateur emission] is Suppressed Carrier Single Sideband, designated as J3E and generally referred to as 'SSB.'"

"For more than fifty years, this maximum bandwidth standard for SSB has been acknowledged, honored and adopted by amateur radio operators."

"However, within the last few years, at least two groups of amateur operators have cast aside the de facto SSB signal width of approximately 3 kHz on the high-frequency amateur bands, and have purposely adjusted or misadjusted their equipment in order to transmit what the Commission's Enforcement Division recently described as 'an emission that occupies more bandwidth than necessary'"

"One group appears on the amateur bands during international radio contests, tweaking and adjusting their transmitters to splatter purposely, in order to provide themselves 'elbowroom' during a contest on a very crowded band."

"Another group has begun experimenting with transmitting 'high-fidelity' audio, apparently seeking to simulate on the crowded HF radiotelephony bands the sound heard usually on the FM broadcast band. This practice has resulted in the transmitting daily, of extremely wide signals on crowded amateur bands and has, according to the Commission's Enforcement Division, generated up to twenty complaints per week to the Commission."

"Until recently, amateurs were self-policing and those who inadvertently transmitted wide, offensive signals, when notified of it, took corrective action. The two groups described above ignore the entreaties of reasonable amateurs to behave as the vast majority of other amateurs behave, and limit their signals to the de facto bandwidth standards common in amateur operating practice. Instead, they purposely broaden their signals."

"In April 2003, the Commission's Enforcement Division sent letters to four amateur station licensees concerning this matter. Notably absent in the letters from FCC's Riley Hollingsworth to the offending stations was any clear citation of a standard for SSB transmission bandwidth. That is because Part 97 of the Commission's Rules contains none."

"The Petitioners hereby and herewith petition the Commission to establish SSB transmission bandwidth standards in order to remove the ambiguity of the Commission's Rules and to provide a clear basis for amateur practice and enforcement action when it is required."

Background

"The Commission directs in 97.307(a) of its rules, that 'No amateur station transmission shall occupy more

bandwidth than necessary for the information rate and emission type being transmitted, in accordance with good amateur practice.' It seems clear to the Petitioners that the Commission intends to limit certain amateur emission bandwidths. For example, 97.307(f)(2) contains reference to a 'communications quality A3E emission.' It is apparent that the Commission has in mind 'communications quality' when referencing A3E transmission."

"Mr. Hollingsworth has written, 'The Amateur Service is not a substitute for the broadcast service, and the frequencies allocated to the Amateur Service were not allocated for broadcast quality audio emission or sound.' We agree with Mr. Hollingsworth, but the very limitations the Commission so clearly has in mind are not clearly described in or imposed by Part 97."

"As the Commission well knows, numerous serious scientific studies have established that voice communication wide enough to provide 'naturalness' is achievable using audio modulating frequencies of from 300 to 3,000 Hz. In practice many amateur SSB transmissions contain frequencies down to about 70 or 80 Hz and create no problems for adjacent stations. It is the emphasis on and transmitting of modulating frequencies above 3,000 Hz that are largely responsible for unnecessary bandwidth in the case of so-called 'Hi-Fi Audio' SSB transmission, excoriated by Hollingsworth and hundreds of complaining amateurs. In the other cases mentioned in this Petition, overmodulation, intended and unintended, causes similarly wide signals to be transmitted."

"Use of AM, while growing again in popularity, does not create the same problems that the burgeoning use of so-called 'Hi Fi Single Sideband' creates."

Suggestions for standards

"...this situation begs attention and action so that the many thousands of amateurs who use the amateur bands responsibly and keep 'good amateur practice' can obtain relief..." The Petitioners requested that Part 97 be amended to provide that:

- No amateur station transmission using J3E shall occupy more than 2.8 kHz bandwidth on any amateur frequency below 28.8 MHz., and,
- No amateur station transmission using A3E shall occupy more than 5.6 kHz bandwidth on any amateur frequency below 28.8 MHz.

"The Petitioners believe these are reasonable and needed limitations that will provide relief and protection to all in the Amateur Service. Those who insist on occupying unusual amounts of spectrum can operate above 28.8 MHz."

The Petitioners added that they do not suggest nor support the 'channelization' of the amateur bands or the establishment of 'type-acceptance' for amateur transmitters.

The ten page petition has not yet been acknowledged (nor an RM number assigned) by the FCC.